

**Minutes of the Little Hoole Parish Council Meeting
Held at 7pm on Monday 9th June 2025, at Walmer Bridge
Village Hall**

In attendance: Cllrs L Dryden (Chair), S Evald, D Owen, T Wilcock, J Rainsbury, S Rainsbury, P Ashby. Mr P Cafferkey (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer); and 3 members of the public.



1. **Apologies for absence:** none
2. **To agree the minutes of the last Parish Council mtg:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council and the May Parish Council meeting, both held on 12th May 2025, be accepted as a true record and were agreed unanimously.
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr D Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18, as he is a school governor at Little Hoole Primary School, although not a member of the PTA..
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:** The Clerk reported that a decision was still awaited with regard to planning item "07/2025/00194/FUL. Land Adjacent 26 Hall Carr Lane Walmer Bridge. Erection of 2 no. self-build dwellings".
5. **Public Time - matters raised by members of the public:** The issue of flooding near the bridge / Old Mill Court following heavy rainfall on the 6th June, was again raised. There is no evidence that any of the statutory authorities have investigated or repaired the drains running from the corner of Dob Lane / Liverpool Old Road running down towards the brook. There is no evidence that the brook is blocked. There is a feeling that Lancashire County Council (LCC) and United Utilities are shifting responsibility for the drains between each organisation. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the CEO of LCC to voice their frustration as to the lack of action in resolving this flooding/drainage problem.

A representative from Walmer Bridge Village Hall (WBVH) spoke in support of the Village Hall's grant application to the Parish Council (section 6 refers) to purchase solar panels which would help alleviate future electricity costs. WBVH has obtained a number of quotes which range from approximately £14,000 to £19,500.

6. **To consider grant application from Walmer Bridge Village Hall (WBVH).** Consideration was given to a grant application from WBVH for an amount up to a maximum of £19,500 to fit solar panels in order to reduce electricity costs. It was resolved that a grant be awarded, up to a maximum of £5,000, or 25% of the cost of the project, whichever is the lowest amount. The Parish Council felt that this commitment would enable WBVH to explore other funding opportunities as WBVH would be able to demonstrate that it had secured part of the required funding.
7. **Planning Applications:**
 - a) 07/2025/00249/PIP. Land to Rear of 42 Hall Carr Lane, PR4 5JJ. Permission in principle for erection of up to one dwelling following demolition of existing buildings.
 - b) 07/2025/00361/REM. Bakers Farm Brook Lane Little Hoole PR4 5JB. Reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout & scale sought for permission 07/2024/00823/OUT for erection of three detached dwellings.

- c) Additional information re Carver Hey 07/2024/00889/FUL. Carver Hey Farm Moss Lane Little Hoole Preston Lancashire PR4 4SX. Demolition of Existing Buildings and Erection of 9 Detached Dwellings

There were no objections to the above planning applications.

8. **It was resolved** that the following transactions processed through the bank in May 2025 be approved.

Date	Payee	£	Description
01-May-25	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	62.04	Website monthly fee
06-May-25	B/P to: D A Braithwaite	50.00	Distribution of leaflets re new bus service
06-May-25	B/P to: Zurich	396.00	Parish Council Insurance
07-May-25	HMRC VTR	-3,813.63	VAT reclaim re 2023/24
09-May-25	FRANK P MATTHEWS RETAIL LIMITED	-23.00	Refund re non delivery of 1 x fruit tree (Community Orchard)
15-May-25	B/P to: Adam Watson	406.92	Purchase and planting of plants in tubs
20-May-25	B/P to: Paul Cocker	24.99	Replacement Shears re Public Rights of Way
20-May-25	B/P to: McCluskey Window	25.00	Cleaning of bus shelters May 2025
20-May-25	B/P to: Employee's pay	251.92	Clerk's pay for Tax Month 02
20-May-25	B/P to: LALC	444.42	LALC / NALC Annual Subscription
23-May-25	Direct Debit (ICO)	47.00	Annual Renewal of ICO Data Protection registration
31-May-25	Service Charge	6.00	Bank monthly service charge

9. **Payments approved by email or pre-approved and retrospectively noted. It was resolved** that the following annual registration fees be approved.

- a) LALC / NALC Registration Fee 2025/26 £444.42; and
- b) Information Commissioner's Office Data Protection fee £47.00

10. **Clerk's Claim for May 2025. It was resolved** that the Clerk's pay claim for May 2025 be approved, comprising 22.76 hours and expenses of £25.01 (2 x black printer cartridges).

11. **Finance Statement as at 31 May 2025.** This item was deferred to the July meeting.

12. **Internal Auditor's Report for 2024/25.** The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had signed off the Internal Audit Report in relation to the 2024/25 AGAR (Annual Governance & Accountability Return), with all internal control objectives having been met. **It was resolved** to approve the 2024/25 AGAR Internal Audit report. The Internal Auditor's more detailed report had made minor recommendations to update the Parish Council's website with the following:

- a) the most recent date of re-approval of standing orders and financial regulations; and
- b) the Parish Council's policies e.g. Code of Conduct, HR Policies etc.

The Clerk confirmed that these recommendations have now been addressed.

13. **Parish Council's AGAR (Annual Governance & Accounting Return) for 2024/25. It was resolved** that the Parish Council's AGAR for 2024/25 be approved.

14. **Dates for the exercise of public rights for the inspection of accounts and supporting records relating to 2024/25. It was resolved** that the dates for the public rights for the inspection of accounts and supporting records relating to 2024/25 be set as Monday 16th June



2025 to Friday 25th July 2025 (inclusive).

15. **VAT Claim 2023-24.** The Clerk confirmed that the VAT Claim for 2023/24 had been submitted in the sum of £3,813.63 and that the income had been received into the bank account on the 7th May 2025; this was noted by the Parish Council.
16. **Summer Activities Programme – Update:** It was noted that the supplier of the Bouncy Castles requires payment in advance. A poster advertising the event will also be produced.
17. **Summer Planting – Update:** The wave path and the large planters have now been planted with flowers, the brick planters and smaller barrel planters will be planted shortly.
18. **Grant application from Little Hoole Primary School PTA for £2,000 for playground markings & equipment – Update:** The PTA has confirmed that funding is not required for any playground furniture and therefore, there is no need for the original grant application to be amended. **It was resolved**, therefore, to award a grant of £2,000 towards replacement playground markings.
19. **Withdrawal of grant application by Hoole St Michael's Church re: refurbishment and repair of the Church Carillon bells – Update:** The Parish Council noted the withdrawal of the grant application by Hoole St Michael's Church.
20. **Flyposting.** The Parish Council thanked Cllr Evald for removing the fly posters and the associated foam tape and glue from the surface of the noticeboard in one of the bus stops. The Clerk reported that "No Fly Posting" notices had been printed and laminated for display in all the noticeboards.
21. **To discuss adding WhatsApp contact button to Parish Council website: It was resolved** to add the WhatsApp contact button to the Parish Council's website.
22. **Information and Updates:** This item is purposefully not recorded; it is to allow Councillors a short time to discuss any matters that might result in a future agenda item. No financial or legal decisions are made.
23. **Correspondence – None**
24. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting is to be held on Mon 14th July, 2025, 7pm, The Lounge, Walmer Bridge Village Hall.

Agreed as a correct record. Laurence Dryden, Chair, 14 July 2025

